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## MARCH MEETING.

THE stated meeting was held on Thursday, the 13th instant, at three o'clock, P. M.; the President, Mr. LODGE, in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read and approved.

The Cabinet-Keeper reported the following accessions:

From Lt. Commander Nathaniel F. Thayer, a lithograph of a group of views of the buildings connected with the United States Naval Radio School, Harvard University, 1917-1919.

From Mrs. John Storer Cobb, a heliotype of a pen-and-ink sketch of the Crematory at West Roxbury, also one of the ground plan.

From Mr. Murdock, two large framed lithographs of "Leaving Brighton Hotel for the Mill-Dam," one in winter, and one in summer, published by Haskell and Allen, 14 Hanover Street, Boston, 1871.

From Mr. Minot, a silver medal of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, 1888.

From Mr. Norcross, a bronze medal struck in France to commemorate the capture of Jerusalem by the Allies in 1917.

By purchase, a photograph of the Society's building at 30 Tremont Street taken, with the Boston Museum, by William T. Clark, one of the rear of the Museum from Court Square, by Mr. Clark, just before the building was completely demolished, a lithographic portrait of Daniel Webster, by J. H. Bufford, on a piece of sheet music published by Oliver Ditson & Co. in 1861, and a lithograph, by Tappan & Bradford, perhaps in December, 1849, of "Prof. G. H. Boulet's Gymnasium, Fencing, Sparring and Pistol Academy, No. 46 Washington Street, Boston."

The Corresponding Secretary reported the receipt of a letter from George A. Plimpton, accepting his election as a Corresponding Member of the Society.

The Editor reported the following accessions of manuscript:

From Mrs. Robert S. Russell, fourteen letters from Dunbar James Douglas, sixth Earl of Selkirk, to Thomas G. Cary, letters to and from Mr. Cary, the ms. and a printed copy of Cary's *Oration* at

Brattleborough, Vermont, July 4, 1821, with other pamphlets by the same writer. Also a ms. history of California by Thomas G. Cary, Jr., comprising eleven notebooks, two of which are concerned with the early history of California, and nine with its history from the Mexican war to the Vigilance Committee of 1851. In 1884 Mr. Thomas G. Cary gave to the Society the subsequent series of seven volumes, dealing with the more recent events in Californian history. Mr. Cary, the younger, lived in California for a number of years, and this history is a record of his interest.

From Miss Albertina von Arnim, of Brookline, a careful study of Ligny and Waterloo, prepared by her father, Theodore F. von Arnim (1826-1900), with the aid of his eldest son; together with some printed volumes on the battles.

From J. Franklin Jameson, a contemporary copy of the address of the inhabitants of the town of Amherst, Massachusetts, to the President of the United States, August 30, 1808, respecting the embargo.<sup>1</sup>

By deposit: From the Bostonian Society a letter book of Jonathan Belcher, 1724-1725. The Historical Society already possessed nine volumes of Belcher papers, the history of which is a good example of the wanderings of ms. material. Four of the volumes were received from Jeremy Belknap in 1791, one from Joseph McKean in 1800, one from an unknown source before 1809, one from the American Antiquarian Society in February, 1838, one in March of the same year from Nathaniel G. Snelling, one from Charles H. Warren in 1858, and now a tenth from the Bostonian Society.

By purchase: Ames' *Astronomical Diary*, 1762, and Low's *Astronomical Diary*, 1770, with ms. entries by Joseph Haynes of Haverhill.

A journal, kept by George S. Baldwin, of a whaling voyage from New Bedford to the coast of New Holland and elsewhere, 1838, in the barque *Cornelia*, George E. Netcher, master. Also of the schooner *General Cobb*, of Newport, Rhode Island, John Hammond, master, 1842. Also 130 letters of George S. Baldwin, 1837-1881, giving an account of his whaling voyages and stay in California.

A collection of Maine and Massachusetts papers of George Thacher, 1734-1846.

Mr. MORSE gave an interesting account of the occasion which led Mr. von Arnim to undertake his study of Waterloo, and of the collection of material incident to the preparation of the manuscript. Miss von Arnim writes:

<sup>1</sup> See p. 161, *infra*.

My father, Theodore F. von Arnim was born in Germany, October, 1826, and came to Boston in 1850, in consequence of not being allowed by his father to enter the army, and make that his profession. He went into business, and in 1853 married Elizabeth A. Cotton. He was always interested in military affairs, and followed the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71 very closely, afterwards visiting all the battle-grounds. In 1893 he became much interested in a book by John C. Ropes on Napoleon's campaigns, and, not agreeing with some of the statements in it, he had some correspondence with Mr. Ropes. In order to inform himself thoroughly he bought what books on the subject he could find, and began to write an account of some of the battles. Taken ill in 1899, he was aided by his eldest son, who had taken great interest in the work, and at the time of my father's death in December, 1900, he had almost finished making a type-written copy of the manuscript; but later, owing to various business troubles, he had not made the final corrections and additions in this copy before his death in July, 1918.

The President announced the death on March 2, in New York, of Edward Doubleday Harris, elected a Resident Member of the Society March 11, 1871, and a Corresponding Member December 8, 1909. Both his father and his grandfather were members, and his grandfather was made a member August, 1792, the second year of the Society's existence.

The President announced the appointment of the following Committees, in preparation for the Annual Meeting in April:

To nominate Officers for the ensuing year: Messrs. JOSEPH GRAFTON MINOT, ROBERT GRANT, and GEORGE FOOT MOORE.

To examine the Library and Cabinet: Messrs. RUSSELL GRAY, NATHAN MATTHEWS, and JOHN WOODFORD FARLOW.

To examine the Treasurer's Accounts: Messrs. CHARLES PELHAM GREENOUGH, and HENRY HERBERT EDES.

Charles Francis Adams, of Concord, was elected a Resident Member of the Society.

George Russell Agassiz, of Newport, Rhode Island, was elected a Corresponding Member of the Society.

It was voted that Chapter III of the By-Laws be amended by inserting after the third paragraph the following paragraph:

Whenever from any cause a vacancy occurs in any office of the Society the Council may fill the same until the next meeting.

Mr. MINOT showed a photostat reproduction of the compilation of the "Book of the General Lawes and Libertyes concerning the Inhabitants of the Massachusets," printed at Cambridge, in 1648, being the second compilation of laws of the colony. Of the first, published about 1641, no copy exists, and the word "published" does not necessarily mean that it was actually printed. The introduction to the second compilation leaves the question in doubt, for the laws therein contained "were not to be published as the laws of this jurisdiction; nor were they ever voted in Court." The Boston Athenæum has this first compilation in manuscript, and it was reproduced in facsimile by the City of Boston in 1889.

The second compilation, and probably the first to be printed, is the volume now presented. Although 600 copies were printed, the work had so completely disappeared as to have left doubt of its ever having been published. In 1906 a copy was found in a small private library in England, and passed into the collection of E. Dwight Church, of New York. That collection was acquired by Mr. Henry E. Huntington, of New York, to whose generous recognition of our claims the Society owes this reproduction. It remains a unique copy. As the foundation-stone of Massachusetts laws its historical is even beyond its bibliographical value.

The reproduction is given "with the express understanding that no facsimile reproductions or reprints are to be made from it: that right being reserved to the Donor." It may be added that there is every reason to believe that Mr. Huntington expects to issue facsimile reproductions of this volume as well as of other unique pieces in his great collection — a certain promise of princely benefactions to history and literature.

The Society adopted the following vote:

That the thanks of the Massachusetts Historical Society be given to Mr. Henry E. Huntington for his courteous and generous gift of a copy of the Massachusetts Laws of 1648.

Mr. CHARLES P. GREENOUGH read the following document:

#### TRANSMITTENDUM.

Near the end of the year Eighteen hundred and forty-eight, the undersigned, being then a poor boy and a Freshman in Harvard College, received the sum of Thirty Dollars, with the request that

he would expend it in the purchase of an overcoat. It came from the Honorable Edward Everett, then President of the college, who, having observed at morning prayers an obscure Freshman from the country coming in without an overcoat, at a time when most of the students had begun to wear them, suspected the reason and made this kind and thoughtful and generous provision for a remedy.

No conditions or suggestions, other than the one above mentioned, were connected with the gift. But it has seemed to the undersigned, being now for the first time able to gratify his wishes in this respect, that he could not in any better way express his gratitude for a gift bestowed upon him with such thoughtful kindness, than by transmitting the same sum of money and providing for its perpetual transmission among persons in a similar situation to his own at the time when he received it, to be used for the same purpose for which it was given to him.

He wishes, therefore, that this parchment, together with the sum of thirty dollars (accompanying it) which is to be expended in the purchase of an overcoat, may be forever transmitted in succession to some undergraduate at Harvard College to whom such assistance would be of especial service. And the successive holders thereof are requested to write upon the parchment their name, the date when they received and delivered it and the place of their residence before entering college. They are also requested to transmit the parchment and the money as soon as their circumstances will comfortably permit, and not sooner. And they are especially requested to provide, by will or otherwise, against any possible failure in the transmission by them or their representatives.

And now the undersigned, gratefully recalling the kindness which first placed this money in his hands, delivers it to his successor, wishing for him and all who follow him the enjoyment of a thick and comfortable garment; therewith also desiring for them the inward warmth of an innocent and virtuous life.

BOSTON, December 17, 1863.

JAMES BRADLEY THAYER.

Mr. LORD spoke on

#### ALEXANDER SCAMMELL.

I submit an autograph letter from Alexander Scammell written while he was a school teacher in Plymouth, dated April 29th — the year not given, but a memorandum in pencil suggests the year 1770, which I believe to be correct.

The letter gracefully expresses his affection and respect for his mother and his high appreciation of his duties and responsi-

bilities as a schoolmaster. It is of interest too to recall that in December, 1770, he, then a school teacher in Plymouth, was the first of a long line of poets to write a song in honor of the Pilgrims.

He was born in Mendon, now Milford, March 24, 1747, was graduated at Harvard in the class of 1769, and received a degree of A.M. from that college in 1772. His father was Dr. Leslie Scammell, who came to Boston from England in 1738 and settled in Mendon, where he practised until his death in 1753. His mother was Jane Libbey. In the biographical notices of Alexander Scammell he is said to have taught school in Kingston, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Shapleigh, Maine, and in some of the notices Plymouth is included in the list.

By reference to published letters of Colonel Scammell which appeared in the *Historical Magazine*<sup>1</sup> and by an examination of the town records and the records of the Old Colony Club, it is possible to determine with substantial accuracy the dates of Mr. Scammell's service as a school teacher in Plymouth.

Upon leaving college Alexander Scammell went first to Kingston, Massachusetts, and began his school teaching, as appears in one of the printed letters referred to, in August, 1769; but in a second letter, dated at Kingston October, 1769, he states that he had engaged Plymouth's school and in a letter of December, 1769, he describes himself as having lived in Plymouth about six weeks. At the town meeting held in Plymouth on Monday, November 12, 1770, the town voted and directed the school committee for grammar school to agree with Mr. Alexander Scammell, our present schoolmaster, to keep the school the current year and to allow him sixty pounds lawful money therefor. At the town meeting held October 28, 1771, the town voted that they would not procure a person to assist Mr. Alexander Scammell, our present schoolmaster, in keeping the grammar school.

It is apparent then from these letters and records that Mr. Scammell was in Plymouth from December, 1769, to at least as late as October, 1771. But the records of the Old Colony Club show that he was admitted as a member of the club on December 21, 1771, and his name appears on the list of members

<sup>1</sup> Second Series, VIII. 129.

as eleventh in the total membership of twelve. After leaving Plymouth he became a surveyor in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, studied law with Gen. James Sullivan, was afterwards on the staff of General Sullivan, served in the Revolution as colonel of the Third New Hampshire Regiment, and was Adjutant General of the Continental Army from January 5, 1778, to January 1, 1781, when he resigned to take command of the First New Hampshire Regiment. He was wounded at Yorktown and died at Williamsburg, October 6, 1781. The inscription on his tombstone was prepared by David Humphreys.

During his life in Plymouth as a school teacher it appears from the Club records that at its meeting of Monday, December 24, 1770, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims, he was present with his classmate, Peleg Wadsworth, of Kingston, who rose to be a Brigadier General of militia in the Revolution, and at that celebration of the landing the first song written in honor of the Pilgrims, so far as I am advised, was sung. The words were written by the Plymouth school teacher Scammell and were set to the tune of "The British Hero."<sup>1</sup>

It is an interesting fact that at that date these two college classmates were teaching school at Plymouth, Mr. Wadsworth having a private school on Market Street and Mr. Scammell the Grammar school on School Street, the schoolhouse standing within my recollection on the right-hand side of the entrance to Burial Hill from Town Square, and in front of the line of stone tombs.

General Wadsworth married in 1772 Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel Bartlett of Plymouth, and after the Revolution settled in Portland, Maine, where his oldest daughter Zilpah was married to Stephen Longfellow, the father of the poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Possibly this family connection with Plymouth was one of the factors in influencing Mr. Longfellow to write "The Courtship of Myles Standish."

#### ALEXANDER SCAMMELL TO HIS MOTHER.

MUCH HONOR MOTHER:—Your kind advice, and ardent Prayers for my Welfare in your last Letter excited the warmest gratitude to

<sup>1</sup> Printed in 2 *Proceedings*, III. 417.



you, and brought to my mind the vast Obligations I am under to you for the almost infinite Pains you have taken to have me educated; the more I think of it, so much the greater I perceive the Obligations are. Your kind Wishes for my discharging my Duty in my present Employment; I hope (by God's Assistance and blessing upon my Endeavors) will be fulfil'd. If an honest and upright Intention for the Good and Welfare of those under my Care and Instruction, is sufficient, I am sure (so far as I know my own Heart) that I have discharg'd my Duty. But I am more and more sensible of the Importance Of my Busines, to think that teaching of youth to write, read, and Cypher comprehends the whole Duty of a School-master; is to have a very wrong Notion of School keeping. His Duty in my Opinion extends much farther, to the Cultivation of their Minds, and to instil into them good Sentiments. To rear the tender minds of youth to Virtue, to teach them proper Respect to Superiors, and Reverence to their divine Creator; is the indispensable Duty of one that has the Care and Education of Youth intrusted to him. To regulate such a Number of pleasant Youth as I have under my Care is an agreeable tho very difficult Task, and that I may go thro it with Fidelity and Honor, I hope you will still continue your Prayers for me to the throne of Grace. I hope this Letter will find you in perfect Health as I am at present. Your dutiful Son

ALXDR. SCAMMELL.

April the 29<sup>th</sup>

[Addressed] For my Hond. Mother.

Mr. THAYER read a note on

#### GEORGE WASHINGTON IN CAMBRIDGE.

The Journal of Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, from which I have had the honor of quoting before to this Society, is a quarry of interesting and sometimes important information. He was born, you will remember, at Newport, R. I., in 1754, and, deciding to fit himself to be a physician, he sailed out of Boston Harbor on the last ship that went out before the blockade in 1775. After studying in England and Scotland — Dr. John Fothergill, one of the most distinguished British practitioners of that generation was his kinsman and patron — he crossed to Holland, took the full course in medicine in the University of Leyden, received his degree of M.D. in 1780, and returned to this country at the close of the Revolutionary War. In 1783

he was appointed one of the first three professors of the Harvard Medical School, and served till 1812. He was a man of wide interests, much general information, and a difficult temper. He cherished his animosities with an almost religious devotion.

On settling in Cambridge, apparently about 1785, he occupied a little house on Waterhouse Street, which still stands, and there he dwelt until his death in 1846.

His Journal, the first part of which is missing, begins in 1828. The following passage deals with General Washington's life in Cambridge, and throws some presumptive evidence on the authenticity of the Elm as a historic monument:

*March 5, 1840.* My situation in the very pleasant town of Cambridge is inferior to none in the far-famed County of Middlesex — the scene of splendid deeds of and after our Declaration of Independence, where General Washington first drew his sword in its glorious cause in 1775. [From the front windows of my study I take in a view of the whole ground] and I yet converse with some who conversed with that illustrious man when he took command here, and began his glorious career. A sensible and very respectable Lady [Madame Wendell,<sup>1</sup> daughter of Brigadier Genl. Brattle, a royalist, and refugee from my country] gave me the following anecdote, viz.:

When Boston was occupied by the British, there was some firing across Charles River from between the British and our militia, which alarmed our women and frightened our children. General Washington occupied the largest and best house in Cambridge. Directly opposite resided a widow Lady, Mrs. Wendall above mentioned, who was filled with apprehension at the firing of cannon and bombs, now and then between the shore of Boston and Cambridge. Mrs. Wendall's Father was, what was called a Tory or Royalist, or adherent to the cause of King George. She had apprehensions not only for her own safety, but that of her father in Boston. He [Washington] therefore stopped his horse before her window and said to her, "Madam! there is no reason for your apprehension of danger to your life here or to that of your father from this noisy discharge of cannon and bombs from the Boston or Cambridge shores. You may rest in quiet repose night and day, for ought I know to the contrary at present. Should danger approach

<sup>1</sup> Of this lady Professor Wendell writes to me: "The Madam Wendell of that interesting Waterhouse reminiscence was Katharine Brattle, who in 1752 married John Mico Wendell (H. C. 1747), a son of Jacob and Sarah (Oliver) Wendell, of Boston, and an older brother of Oliver Wendell, Dr. Holmes' grandfather."

you by night or day, you shall know it in time in common with your females, all to rest in safety"; and he never passed that Ladies' window without a bow of protection to both *Whig* and *Tories*; so that General Gage himself had he come out of Boston to Cambridge could not have said more to tranquilize the fears of the female part of the community than what Washington judiciously intimated to the numerous "Tories" of Cambridge.

Purists among us note the repetitions and the somewhat disjointed syntax of Dr. Waterhouse, but these are common characteristics of very old men, and he was then eighty-six.

Mr. MURDOCK read the following letters and lines relating to

EDWARD GIBBON.<sup>1</sup>

On February 21, 1774, Johnson wrote to George Steevens, his associate in editing Shakespeare: "We are thinking to augment our club, and I am desirous of nominating you, if you care to stand the ballot, and can attend on Friday nights at least twice in five weeks: less than this is too little, and rather more will be expected. Be pleased to let me know before Friday." This letter was written on Monday, and Friday would be the 25th; but the election was not held until the following Friday, March 4, when Steevens was chosen, with Charles James Fox, Sir Charles Bunbury and Dr. George Fordyce. In informing Steevens of his election Johnson wrote: "a gentleman, proposed after you, was rejected."<sup>2</sup> Fox, proposed by Burke, had just been removed from the Treasury. Bunbury may have owed his election to Goldsmith, who failed in his support of Gibbon.

The identity of the gentleman who was rejected has not been known to editors of Boswell, nor has any one of them even made a conjecture. The well-kept mystery is solved by the second of the following letters.

GEORGE STEEVENS TO DAVID GARRICK.<sup>3</sup>

HAMPSTEAD, March 6th, 1774.

MY DEAR SIR, — Many thanks both for your suffrage and your congratulations, for they are equally honourable to me. I shall

<sup>1</sup> The originals are all in Mr. Murdock's collections.

<sup>2</sup> Boswell's *Johnson* (Hill), II. 273.

<sup>3</sup> This letter is printed in Garrick *Correspondence*, I. 613, but with the curious slip of repeating the initial "G," so as to read "but I believe Dr. G. will be the last man," etc., depriving the sentence of its point.

not fail to join the Club on Friday evening. Dr. Johnson desires I will call on him, and he will introduce me. Pray what is the usual time of meeting?

Mr. C. Fox pays you but a bad compliment; as he appears, like the late Mr. Secretary Morris,<sup>1</sup> to enter the Society at a time when he has *nothing else to do*.<sup>2</sup> If the *bon ton* should prove a contagious disorder among us, it will be curious to trace its progress. I have already seen it breaking out in Dr. G[oldsmith] under the form of many a waistcoat: but I believe Dr. J[ohnson] will be the last man in whom the symptoms of it will be detected.

Once more I thank you for your partiality in my favour, and shall live in the hope of meeting you on Friday Evening. I am, Dear Sir, your most obliged and faithful,

G. STEEVENS.

Pray who is this offended Author who appeals from your judgment to the Public? Your enemies always take care to justify your conduct by exposing their own productions.

DAVID GARRICK TO GEORGE STEEVENS.

HAMPTON, March 8th, 1774.

MY DEAR SIR, — I came here this morning almost dying with a headache attended with a small fever, and some symptoms of the Stone. I caught cold in the House of Commons yesterday,<sup>3</sup> and from my present feeling, I cannot, tho I am better this evening, guess how my indisposition will end: the Gentlemen of the Club assemble before nine, if you are with Dr. Johnson by 8, you will be in good time: I have receiv'd another letter from Mr. Scott with his remarks upon that difficult passage in *Othello*, *a fellow almost damn'd in a fair Wife*.<sup>4</sup> I will give you the letter with that curious one of *Anti-mendax*, if I am able to attend you, and nothing but illness shall prevent me.

<sup>1</sup> Probably Corbyn Morris (*d.* 1779), who gained reputation as Secretary of the Customs and Salt Duty in Scotland, and wrote much on finance. The word "late," in that event, must not be taken literally.

<sup>2</sup> Fox had recently received through one of the door-keepers of the House of Commons the following note: "SIR, — His Majesty has thought proper to order a new commission of the Treasury to be made out, in which I do not perceive your name. NORTH."

<sup>3</sup> On March 7 Lord North presented to the House of Commons the King's message on the "unwarrantable practices which have been lately concerted and carried on in North America, and particularly of the violent and outrageous proceedings at the town and port of Boston, in the province of Massachusetts Bay."

<sup>4</sup> The various conjectures on this line are given in Furness, *Othello*, 5, but Scott is not mentioned.

Do you know a gentleman whose name is *Gibbon*, propos'd by Dr. Goldsmith, and who was blackball'd the same evening you was elected? I have often taken notice of the *bon ton* you mention in many a waistcoat! in hopes of being able to attend your entrance on Fryday, I am Most Truly Your Sincere Friend and Servant,

D. GARRICK.

I write this upon the bed for I can't hold my head up.

[Addressed] To George Steevens Esqr., at Hampstead.

The following lines are on the front fly-leaf of a copy of Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, 1776, which is in its original binding. As to the date of the writing only a conjecture is possible. In the summer of 1779 Gibbon was appointed one of the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations, the chief labor involved being that of drawing £750 a year. The Board was abolished in 1782, and Gibbon applied to the ministry for the post of secretary of embassy at Paris, but failed to obtain it. The lines must have been written between 1779 and 1782.

King George in a fright  
Lest Gibbon should write  
The story of Brittain's disgrace  
  
Thought nothing so sure  
His Pen to secure  
As to give the Historian a place  
  
But his project is vain  
'T is the Curse of his Reign  
That his measures should never succeed  
  
Tho' He write not a line  
Yet the Cause of decline  
In this Author's example we read  
  
His Book well describes  
How Corruption and Bribes  
Oerthrew the great Empire of Rome  
  
And his writings declare  
A degeneracy there  
Which his Conduct exhibits at Home.

C. J. Fox.

## EDWARD GIBBON TO [PETER ELMSLEY].

LAUSANNE, March 28, 1789.

At length, Dear [                    ],<sup>1</sup> you have conquered my indolence, and as I know that a few strokes of the pen will give you more pleasure than they can give me trouble, I hold myself inexcusable in having delayed them so long. From several of our common friends you had heard however of my safe return and pleasant situation. The autumn was remarkably populous in such Englishmen as I am not ashamed to acknowledge in foreign countries such as Douglas Wyndham, the Camelfords,<sup>2</sup> the Paynes,<sup>3</sup> Lord Beauchamp,<sup>4</sup> Lord Malmsbury,<sup>5</sup> and above all Mr. Fox, who passed a whole day alone with me on such a beautiful spot, and in such friendly philosophic converse, as he may possibly remember and regret in the full gratification of his ambition. The road now seems open but I do not perfectly understand his retreat to Bath. Unless his health be seriously deranged, it appears at this distance ill-timed and unreasonable. You excuse yourself from writing politicks as I am sufficiently informed by my other friends; a poor Apology! You must easily see that with my temper and habits, I can have no correspondent save Lord S[heffield], and whatsoever modesty you may feel or affect, I sincerely assure you that I set the highest value on the observations of a cool, intelligent, impartial man, who converses every day with all ranks of people from a Duke to a printer's devil. Therefore write on public as well as private business, and be persuaded that on all subjects your correspondence will be acceptable to a person who has long considered you not only as a bookseller but as a friend. Let me now however address the Bookseller: and first let me complain or lament that we have not found any mode tolerably cheap and tolerably speedy for the conveyance of light parcels, reviews, pamphlets and such books as provoke more than ordinary impatience. The heavy baggage arrived safe and soon at Lausanne, and I now possess a respectable library of at least 6000 volumes, superior to any in the Pays de Vaud, and more com-

<sup>1</sup> The name has been carefully obliterated, but enough remains to show the top and lower strokes of a capital and an *l* and *y* in the proper places for Elmsley, the bookseller (1736-1802). See *Dictionary of National Biography*, xvii. 310. Gibbon had offered the *Decline and Fall* for publication to Elmsley, but "my timid friend" declined it. In his will he left fifty pounds to Elmsley.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Pitt, first Baron Camelford (1737-1793), who married Anne, daughter of Pinckney Wilkinson.

<sup>3</sup> Sir Ralph Payne, Lord Lavington (1738?-1807), married Françoise Lambertine, daughter of Henry, Baron Kolbel of Saxony.

<sup>4</sup> William Lygon (1747-1816) married Catherine Denn.

<sup>5</sup> James Harris, Baron Malmesbury (1746-1820), married Harriet Mary, daughter of Sir George Amyand.

pleat and valuable than it formerly was in Bentinck street: but Caplin <sup>1</sup> (I suppose) could not find room in the last box for the pamphlets some of which I should be sorry to lose (as for instance Mr. Walpole's mysterious mother <sup>2</sup>): they must not be forgotten in the box which I think you will be able to form and send soon after the receipt of this letter. It will consist. 1 Of such books as you have been able to procure since my departure and among which I hope to find Torfaeus Hist. Orcadum,<sup>3</sup> and Bellendenus de tribus luminibus <sup>4</sup> on which I would bestow a Russia binding. Surely this winter's sales will not have been unproductive. 2 Of new publications which may deserve to pass the water. I have not seen in the papers, any thing considerable or curious, except a voyage to Cooke's river in North America;<sup>5</sup> but you know that in general I am greedy of Voyages and travels. Are Lady Craven's <sup>6</sup> tolerable? Have any good editions of the Classics appeared? Has Robert Heron (I forget his real name) <sup>7</sup> published his lives of the Scotch Saints to which I am a subscriber. What is the quarrel between Bellendenus Parr, and the Bishop of Worcester? The Doctor has a keen pen, and the Bishop is fair game.<sup>8</sup> In short you know my taste and will supply me accordingly. Whenever you dispatch a cargo I must have the Monthly reviews and political magazines continued to the present time. What is the character of the Analytical review? Had you more leisure or a proper Secretary, I would desire you to collect the reviews, magazines etc. that speak of my history, and dropping the

<sup>1</sup> Richard Caplin, who lived with Gibbon many years in the capacity of a butler.

<sup>2</sup> A tragedy in five acts, in verse, first printed at Strawberry Hill in 1768 and again in 1781.

<sup>3</sup> Thormodus Torfaeus, *Orcades, seu rerum orcadensium historiae libri tres*. Hauniae, 1697, reprinted in 1715.

<sup>4</sup> William Bellenden, *De tribus luminibus Romanorum libri sexdecim*, Parisiis, 1634.

<sup>5</sup> Probably Nathaniel Portlock's *Voyage round the World; but more particularly to the North-West Coast of America*. London, 1789.

<sup>6</sup> Elizabeth Berkeley, Lady Craven, *Journey through the Crimea to Constantinople in 1786*. London, 1789.

<sup>7</sup> Robert Heron (1764-1807) was, at this time, studying for the church and later published an indifferent *History of Scotland* (1794-1799) in six volumes. Ten years earlier John Pinkerton had printed his *Letters of Literature* under the pseudonym of "Robert Heron," and in 1789 appeared his collection of *Ancient Lives of the Scottish Saints*.

<sup>8</sup> In 1787 Henry Homer published Guilielmus Bellendenus *Libri III, 1° de statu prisca orbis*, etc., with three unsigned dedications, prepared by Parr, to Edmund Burke, Lord North and Charles James Fox. Parr also republished some early writings of Richard Hurd, Bishop of Worcester, with a very caustic preface and dedication to Hurd. The story is briefly told in *Dictionary of National Biography*, xxviii. 315.

printed extracts which form the greatest part of their accounts to transcribe their judgements and remarks of every complexion favourable, critical or even abusive: but I will not impose on your friendship, the disagreeable task of freely informing me of the opinion of the World. The best man and the most successful writer must hear many things, perhaps many truths offensive to his vanity.

Both your correspondents, in Holland and at Paris have executed their commissions with tolerable, and only tolerable success. The Dutchman is happy since he depends on you, but the poor Frenchman cannot obtain from Mr. Gibbon (a vile fellow) either money or a civil acknowledgment, and as *he* does not know the man he is probably astonished. Yet I hope to satisfy him in the course of next month, and I shall probably suppose myself but lately settled at Lausanne.

I have the expensive honour of being elected a fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, and I shall take it as a favour if you would discharge my entrance and subscription to both together with five Guineas which I promised Sir Joseph Banks for the African discoveries. If you will likewise settle Caplin's account, and inform me of the total amount, you may be *assured* of a draught by the return of the post. On the receipt of your second letter I was just going to relieve your Christmas poverty; but I am now very glad that *I haud my hond*, for by the very next post I received a letter from Lord S. that my agent Mr. Hugonin <sup>1</sup> was dead insolvent and that I shall lose a year and half of my Hampshire rents. Another disagreeable call has taken place at the same time, and you must have patience till my cash account is recruited. It will therefore be proper to postpone some expensive orders such as the Philosophical transactions, the ruins of Palmyra, etc., and Hearne's publications. Adieu, be not discouraged; write soon and copiously and you shall be surprized by a full and speedy answer. I have much to say about the King of Prussia and Anacharsis, but my time and paper are exhausted. I am sincerely Yours,

E. GIBBON.

THE BURNS CENTENARY, 1859.

Mr. FORD read an account of a pilgrimage to Boston made in 1859 by Henry Howard Gratz, of Missouri. This paper was found by Mr. William Vincent Byars among the Gratz papers. Though undated it must have been written after 1902. Mr. Gratz read it before a Women's Club of Lexington, Kentucky, some fifteen years ago, and it was printed in the

<sup>1</sup> Francis Hugonin. Gibbon, *Correspondence*, II. 185.



local newspaper. In January, 1919, it was read by Mr. Walter B. Stevens before the Burns Club of St. Louis, and, with his introduction, appeared in *Reedy's Mirror* (St. Louis) for January 31. A copy was received from Mr. Bixby, our corresponding Member, and is now reprinted. Of a Kentucky family Henry Howard Gratz removed to Missouri, where he went into raising hemp and rope making and naturally favored slavery, regarded as so necessary to his interests. He had read some of Emerson, and *Sartor Resartus* of Carlyle and was a firm admirer of both men. His own story of his Burns pilgrimage to Boston follows:<sup>1</sup>

In 1859, I saw that the centennial anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns was to be celebrated by a grand dinner in Boston. I determined to go, and I did.

I did not know anyone in that city, never having been there before. I took a Long Island Sound boat in New York and arrived there to breakfast, the day the dinner was to be given, and went to the hotel where the festival was to be held,<sup>2</sup> and, after registering, asked the clerk for a ticket to the Burns dinner. He told me that they were all sold. I then asked him the name and address of the secretary of the Burns Society, which he wrote out very legibly on a card.

After breakfast I got a carriage and called on Mr. Tweedy,<sup>3</sup> the secretary, at his place of business, and inquired of a neat and very pretty Yankee girl for that gentleman. She said Mr. Tweedy was at his country seat but would be in by nine o'clock.

As it was not long, I asked permission to wait in the store till he came, which was politely granted. Mr. Tweedy was a manufacturer of hair ornaments and I took great interest in the work as it was shown me by the pretty girl. After a short time Mr. Tweedy drove up in his handsome coupé, walked into the store and saluted me most courteously. He was about five feet high and four feet broad, with gold spectacles and high forehead.

When I told him of my mission he told me that all the tickets were sold. Not to be balked, I towered above Mr. Tweedy with

<sup>1</sup> A full account of the dinner will be found in *Celebration of the Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of Robert Burns, by the Boston Burns Club*, January 25, 1859. Boston, 1859. The club was merged into the existing Caledonian Club of Boston.

<sup>2</sup> Parker House.

<sup>3</sup> No one of that name was a member of the Burns Club. John C. Moore was secretary, and was a reporter. No firm dealing in hair goods in Boston bore the name Tweedy, nor is the name to be found in the *Directory* for 1859. The nearest approach is James Tweed, dealing in hides, but he was not a member of the club.

"Border Ruffian" beard and towering form, struck an attitude and said threateningly: "Mr. Tweedy, I live upon the sunset side of the father of waters, and have come 1,500 miles to attend this festival, and you must forge me a ticket." "Certainly," said Mr. Tweedy, "Come back to my desk." He filled out the ticket in due form and modestly said the price was six dollars.

I nearly fainted, for six dollars in those days was a considerable sum of money, and as the cost of a dinner, was unheard of in my experience. But those sweet Yankee girls were looking on; so I promptly paid the money and betook myself to my carriage and stuck to it all day, as every square in Boston is a street and every street crooked. Late in the afternoon I went back to the hotel to prepare for dinner. I went into a barber shop and told the barber to cut out the best Boston face he could and to make me look like a Milk Street snob. This he did, and I was a sight to behold. I went down in the parlor where the guests were assembling. Not knowing anybody, I sidled up to a benevolent old gentleman who told me his name was Thayer and that he lived in Boston.<sup>1</sup>

I told him of my purpose in coming to the dinner and I would thank him to point out the celebrities, which he did. When dinner was announced, I took Mr. Thayer's arm and we walked into the dining-room, where some twelve hundred gentlemen were assembling.

We got seats low down at one of the tables and, after waiting an unconscionable time, a Scotch waiter (everything was Scotch) brought us some soup, — very little in the plates.

Remember, I was hungry, and having paid six dollars for the dinner, I did not want to destroy my appetite by taking a lunch; so I said to the waiter: "Bring me a good dinner" — I gave him a quarter — "and I will give you another when we are abundantly served." He danced up and down the tables and, I will venture to say we had the best dinner of anyone at the table.

After eating as much as several men ought to have eaten, I told our amiable waiter that if he would get me a seat up the table near the invited guests, I would give him half a dollar. He said, "certainly," and told me to follow him.

He went up to the table and tapped a gentleman on the shoulder, saying to him, "This is an invited guest." Up jumped the gentleman and offered me his seat. Down I sat, not forgetting to give the waiter the promised half dollar. I was placed opposite Mr. Emerson, the man I especially wanted to see, N. P. Willis and Doctor Oliver Wendell Holmes. It is needless to say I enjoyed the speeches, poems,

<sup>1</sup> Gideon F. Thayer, president of the Prescott Fire and Marine Insurance Company, was a member of the club.

etc., amazingly. During a lull in the programme I spoke across the table to Mr. Emerson and asked the pleasure of pledging him in a glass of wine to the health of Mr. Thomas Carlyle, to which he responded promptly, "With pleasure. I will drink to the health of the greatest Scotchman of the century!" and we emptied our glasses of champagne to his hero and mine.

During the dinner, I asked a reporter sitting next to me, if I could get the manuscripts of Mr. Emerson's essay and Doctor Holmes' poem. He said if I would come down to the *Globe* [*Atlas?*] office after they had set them in type, I might have the manuscripts.

About two o'clock in the morning, I got a waiter to guide me to the *Globe* office and climbed up five or six flights of stairs to the composing room. The foreman came forward. I told him the purpose of my visit. He turned around and, speaking in a loud voice, said: "Dr. Holmes, here is a gentleman who wants the manuscript of your poem." He replied, "He can get it when I have corrected this proof." I went up to the table where he was busy with the proof and found a small man reading by a candle — it was before the day of gas and electricity. He asked me how to spell some words and I told him the best I knew. He said, "That is the way it is spelled in the proof but I think it is wrong and I prefer to have it spelled the other way." After he had done with his proof correction, I got the manuscripts and have them yet. I asked Dr. Holmes to sign his autograph to the poem. He took up his pen and wrote the first word and, when he came to Wendell, he stopped and said he was a cousin of that "pestilent abolitionist, Wendell Phillips," and spelled his name the same way — and finished the autograph. We went downstairs together, and he asked me where I was stopping, and when we had walked together a square or two, he said he lived in another direction.

I then asked him how I should proceed. He named some streets which were all Greek to me. He saw my perplexity and said he would not deserve to be called a Christian if he abandoned a stranger in the streets of Boston at that time of night and that he would go to my hotel with me and take a carriage home. He refused to let me pay for the carriage and I considered it then and have ever since a real act of charity. It showed that the little man had a big heart in his breast. . . .

I saw in a morning paper that Mr. Emerson was to lecture in Providence the next evening, and I took the afternoon train for that city.

As good luck would have it Mr. Emerson took the same train, and occupied the same seat with me. Seeing the book in my hand, he asked me what it was. I told him the life of Arago.<sup>1</sup> He said he

<sup>1</sup> No biography of Arago has been published in Boston.

had read it. I told him they said at Field's — the bookseller's — that it was only put on sale that day.

He replied, "That may be true, but I live in Concord and we have a public library; by an arrangement with the publishers, we get the first bound copies of the books we order, and it is sometimes a year before they are furnished to the book-stores."

Then we had a long talk which led to Carlyle, and he told me a number of interesting anecdotes about the great man, his wife and his residence in the country. He then said that I could find in his "English Traits"<sup>1</sup> a pleasing account of Carlyle. When I told him I had not read it, he said if I would give him my address he would send it to me. I told him that I could get it at the bookstores and declined his kind offer.

The reason I did this was because I lived in Western Missouri and was a "Border Ruffian," and the name of Gratz was not known to the public except through Gratz Brown, who was a flaming Republican, and I did not want to be identified with his party.

After we reached Providence; Mr. Emerson asked me what hotel I put up at, and I told him I had never been in Providence before and merely came to hear him lecture. He proposed that I should go with him to the City Hotel, to which I agreed. I got my supper and then went to the smoking room, for they would not let you smoke except in a certain room.

While I was sitting with my feet on the table, thinking over my long talk with Emerson, he came in and said that he had been looking for me. He saw I was smoking and said he smoked himself and would I go to his room with him.

We went and had some further pleasant talk. I asked him if there are any gentle, soft-spoken women in New England, as my acquaintance with New England women was limited to one, and she talked loud and was not to my liking at all. He said he was invited to supper after the lecture and if I would go with him, he would guarantee me a cordial reception and that I would see some of the loveliest women, the most scholarly, cultivated men I ever saw. For his experience was that the brightest and most cultivated minds were not known to the public. This I declined, saying that I could not take advantage of our scraped acquaintance to impose on his friends.

The truth was, I was afraid of getting beyond my depth and might show my ignorance and lack of the higher culture they enjoyed. When the lecture committee called I bowed myself out, but not before Mr. Emerson said he wanted to see me when he got back from the supper.

<sup>1</sup> Published in 1856.

I went to the church where the lecture was to be given and could not get a seat.<sup>1</sup> As I had been up nearly all night before, I went out just as Mr. Emerson and his friend drove up.

I told Mr. Emerson my difficulty and he said to one of the gentlemen of the committee that he wanted his "friend" to have a seat. "Certainly," said the gentleman, "follow me." We went into the basement, began to climb a stair and, before I knew it, we were ushered into the pulpit, which was as large as an ordinary room, filled with chairs occupied by gentlemen. Mr. Emerson and his "friend" were invited to take seats on a sofa just behind the pulpit desk, and there was I, who had never faced an audience in my life and have never since to this very hour.

Mr. Emerson leaned over and pointed out a seat below us, and said I could not tell what he meant by sitting behind him. I declined to become more conspicuous and sat bolt upright.

People all over the house were whispering, and I felt sure they were asking who Mr. Emerson's distinguished "friend" was, and, as neither he nor any one in the audience knew me from a side of sole leather, I felt safe. I was a much younger man than I am today, and so began looking up and down the pews for pretty girls, about 4,000 women being present in full view. Some of them were fresh and very pretty, but most of them had spectacles on and were rather passé. What struck me as most novel was the fact that eight out of ten of these women had knitting in their hands and plied the needles unceasingly while Mr. Emerson spoke. I was so bothered that I could not enjoy the lecture, thinking about how to get out of the scrape I was in, for Mr. Emerson's friends would naturally expect to be introduced to his distinguished "friend," who occupied so conspicuous a seat at the lecture; but how could he introduce me when he was totally ignorant of my name or whence I came? It would be as embarrassing to him as to me. I hit upon a plan that worked to a charm. I made up my mind that as soon as Mr. Emerson was through speaking, I would slip down the steps from the pulpit and lose myself in the body of the audience. This I did, and did not see Mr. Emerson again until he returned from the supper, and then explained how I had relieved him and myself from the embarrassing position in which I was placed; at which he laughed heartily.

In speaking of the lecture, I told him that it was so loaded with thought and reference that no one could remember a tithe of what he said. He replied that he did not expect his hearers to remember all that he said, but that a thought or allusion would cling to

<sup>1</sup> The Beneficent Congregational Church, on Broad Street. The lecture was in the course of the Franklin Lyceum, but the subject is not given in the press, nor so much as a mention of the occasion.

memory, here and there, and thus influence character, and make an impression.

He told me that his life was a simple one; he worked on his farm and made a regular hand in the hayfield and that his health was better from the exercise acquired in this way; also that he could study to better advantage by this sort of interruption.

I saw him next morning and we parted like bosom friends of very long acquaintance, and he had no more idea who I was, or where I came from than the man in the moon.

The last shot Mr. Emerson had at me was through my Washington friend, Frank Blair,<sup>1</sup> at whose house I had been staying, and to which I returned.

Before I left for Boston, my friend urged me to put off my trip for a few days and go with him to Boston and he would introduce me to all the prominent men of New England, as he was going there to deliver a Free Soil lecture.<sup>2</sup> I did not want to be mixed up with such a crowd, as I was an intense "Border Ruffian," and declined. After Frank Blair got back from Boston he said to me: "You must be the damned fool that Emerson was telling about meeting there the week before." I neither confessed nor denied, but suspected that I was the man.

#### A RELIC OF EDWARD WINSLOW.

MR. FORD called attention to his discovery of an interesting relic of Edward Winslow, of the Plymouth settlement, in a volume of pamphlets in the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester. It is a copy of a sermon by John Canne, the divine and printer, for seventeen years a resident of Amsterdam, whither he had gone to be the successor of Henry Ainsworth as pastor of the congregation of English independents there, and to become "the leader of the English Brownists in Amsterdam. In 1649 he appears to have been in England, and among the five books by him issued in that year was *The Snare is broken*, containing a dedication to the Commons assembled in Parliament dated from Bowe, April 21, 1649.<sup>3</sup> The date of neither

<sup>1</sup> Frank P. Blair, Jr.

<sup>2</sup> At Tremont Temple, January 26. The subject of the lecture was "The Destiny of the Races on this Continent," and it was given in the public lecture series of the Mercantile Library Association. In its note on the lecture the *Transcript* said: "The theme of Mr. Blair's lecture — although grand in itself, and of pressing importance to Americans — was not such as to catch the ready and sympathetic appreciation of an audience met to while away an hour in agreeable intellectual exercises."

<sup>3</sup> It may be noted that Jonathan Mayhew took *The Snare broken* for the title of his sermon preached May 23, 1766, on the repeal of the stamp-act.

# The Snare is broken.

Wherein is proved by Scripture,  
Law and Reason, that the NATIONAL  
COVENANT and OATH was unlaw-  
fully given and taken: And whatsoever may  
be probably pretended or objected for it, is  
fully answered, and refuted.

HERE ALSO

Is vindicated the PARLIAMENTS later pro-  
ceedings: Shewing the Grounds and Principles of  
the LONDON MINISTERS to be weak and  
unsound, and so their Accusations and Charges  
against the State, false and scandalous.

Moreover something is said  
Against *Violence in Religion*, and the duty of the Civill  
Magistrate about *Worship and Church-Government*.

By JOHN CANNE.

1 Sam. 15. 22, 23.

*Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt-offerings and sacrifices, as in  
obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better then sacrifice:  
and to hearken, then the fat of rammes.*

*For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornnesse is an iniqui-  
tie and idolatry.*

Published by Authority.

LONDON,  
Printed for M. Simmons in Aldersgate-street. 1649.

*for m<sup>r</sup> Francis S.D. only*  
*E-S*

his birth nor death is known, but he is believed to have died in Amsterdam in 1667. The initials on the title-page of this copy are those of Edward Winslow, who was in England in 1649. Francis Willoughby, to whom the tract was given, was a freeman of Massachusetts Bay, residing in Charlestown; but he appears to have been in England after 1647 and may also have met Winslow there.

AMHERST PETITION ON THE EMBARGO, 1808.<sup>1</sup>

To the President of the United States.

The inhabitants of the Town of Amherst in the County of Hampshire and State of Massachusetts in legal Town Meeting assembled beg leave respectfully to represent their constant and loyal attachment to the Government of the united States highly impressed with the idea of the necessity of Laws and the Support of the same wishing in ordinary cases to avoid all scrutinies into the secrets of their Government, but in all things submitting to the orders acts and decrees which have issued from time to time from high Authority as good and liege Subjects of the united States, and are willing at all times to hazard their lives and fortunes whenever the publick good requires it.

Humbly Shew, That they are at this time in common with their fellow citizens labouring under the weight of a grievous Embargo, and every day and month brings an additional train of Evils that from being one of the most flourishing Countries in the World we are threaten'd with misery desolation and poverty that in our harbours into which the treasures of the East were wafted with every breeze now present a miserable spectacle ships perishing rotting and perforated by the sea worms thousands of our Seamen who were wont to gather their harvest from the Ocean are thrown out of their daily employment many of them have families who are perishing for want of bread multitudes of them are in a state of beggary and many are enlisting on board British and other foreign vessels that the calamity is still spreading farther and the interior has already begun to feel severely the affects of the Embargo that all our surplus produce is now perishing on our hands almost a total stagnation of business and no one of any occupation can boast he does not feel the smart: men of the best property and reputation wholly unable to fulfil their contracts by reason of the fall of their produce: and stagnation of our Currency: and are wrenched from their families to take up their abode in a dark and solitary prison all these and worse calamities are fast approaching upon this once

<sup>1</sup> Gift of John Franklin Jameson. See p. 140, *supra*.



happy Country the multiplicity of lawsuits which have been and are now increasing is a grievous burthen upon the people and an aggravation of their calamity but notwithstanding these misfortunes we would cheerfully submit to them could we see the necessity or that they were promoting the interest of the public weel we have always been instructed to believe that it was true American policy to maintain a strict neutral position relative to the belligerent Powers of Europe and we humbly hope it has been the constant aim and intent of our Government as much as possible to keep out of the vortex which has already swallow'd up Continental Europe we have often been inform'd by our Government in order to alleviate our present Sufferings that this Embargo was put on only to save our property from the Spoilations of the two belligerent Powers in conformity to their blockading decrees but it was the whole intent to maintain friendship with each as far as was possible consistent with American principles our sister State of Vermont being wholly deprived of their trade to Boston and other Atlantick ports, by reason of the Embargo which was laid upon ships turn'd off their surplus produce into the province of Canada in order to alleviate in some measure their sufferings but immediately their was an Embargo upon that kind of traffic there being no danger from that quarter, of any spoilations or any affects that could result from blockading decrees we were very anxious to know the cause neither have we ever had any reason assign'd from Government why this last Embargo was laid and why we were prohibited to trade with the Colony of a nation in amity with us, and this last Embargo and the principles of it, being wholly unexplained upon the other principles of the Government we were involved in darkness and perplexity.

We therefore humbly conceive it as our duty and right to avail ourselves of every opportunity which offers of procuring a relief from so great a calamity.

We therefore pray that the Embargo in whole or in part may be suspended according to the powers vested in the President by the Congress of the United States and if any doubts should exist of the competency of those powers they would humbly request that Congress may be conven'd as early as possible for the purpose of taking this subject into their consideration.

A true Copy the Original

CALVIN MERILL	} <i>Selectmen of the town of Amherst.</i>
ELISHA DICKINSON	
MOSES HASTINGS	
EBENEZER INGRAM	
AARON MERRICK	

August 30th, 1808.

I hereby certify, that at a legal town-meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Amherst in the county of Hampshire and Commonwealth of Massachusetts holden, in said town, on the thirtieth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight, by adjournment from the twenty ninth day of the same month, the foregoing Petition reported by a Committee appointed for that purpose, was accepted, and the Selectmen, by a vote requested to sign the same, and forward it to the President of the United States.

SAMUEL F. DICKINSON, Town Clerk of Amherst.

DAVID ROBINSON TO WILLIAM PRESTON.<sup>1</sup>

BOSTON, November 5th, 1761.

DEAR SIR: — We left Philadelphia the 10th ult. as I informed you in my last and had a pleasant Passage down the River. The 12th put out to sea, but the Wind veering round to the Eastward and blowing from that Quarter almost two Weeks rendered the Voyage very tedious and disagreeable. Our Crew were wicked beyond Expression and never gave over damning their Eyes, the Seas, Wind and Weather. The 23rd we got into the Sound between Martin's Vineyard and the Main, where we met with the most terrible Hurricane that has been ever known in these Parts. It came on about Nine o Clock at Night and continued with the utmost Violence till two in the Morning. Between Eleven and Twelve we were cast away upon the Island in Spite of Anchors, Cables and every other Expedient. The Scene was indeed shocking beyond Description. The sea tossd from the Channel roll'd in huge foming Billows to the Shore. Add to this the Cries of Men, Crashing of Cables, unusual Darkness of the Night, and a yet more formidable Incident, viz. our getting foul of Two other Vessels in the Middle of the Gale, and you will have some faint Idea of our dangerous Situation. Yet it pleased Providence that no Lives were lost, as the Ship did not bilge, the Ground where she struck being soft and sandy and within 200 Yards of the Beach.

The 24th went on Board of a Schooner bound for old York. 31st. Put out to sea oncemore, but the Wind takeing us a Head, it was with no little Difficulty we could weather Nantucket Shoals and were very glad to make this Harbour.

I set out instantly for the Eastward by Land as I don't choose to trust myself again, at this Season, to an unmercifull Element. I doubt I cannot get Home so soon as I imagin'd.

For News I refer you to the inclosed Prints, where you will find a Paragraph concerning Col. Mc NUTT, late of Virginia, but soon ex-

<sup>1</sup> From the Preston Papers in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

pected to be Govr. of Nova Scotia; to which I need only add, that his HONOR has got a Yearly Pension settled on him from the Government. It may not be amiss too, to acquaint you that the Colo. last Year, in the Highth of his Gaiety, performed Two other *Exploits* in N. England which I leave you to guess. You may be assured, however, that he has given sufficient Proof of his Manhood in them both.

There has been a strange Shew in Town To-day. The Pope was carried thro' the Streets seated on a Machine with Wheels, and the Devil behind him. His Holiness was in a very antique Dress and had really a Roman Nose. The Devil out of Complisance wore one about Two Inches longer and had a Key in One Hand a Pitchfork in the other. A vast Concourse of People attended the Procession, which at last ended with Burning the Devil and Pope together. . . .

DAVID ROBINSON.

Remarks were made during the meeting by Messrs. MORSE, NORCROSS, RHODES, WENDELL, and BOWDITCH.

*November 21.* Shipped by Samuel Sewall, in the *John and Samuel*, Josiah Eldridge, master, to Edward Hull, London: "one Bage of Eaigty five ounces Coin'd Silver being for the Redemtion of Anthony Haywood a Slave in Salley." No freight specified.<sup>1</sup>

1696, *September 23.* Shipped by Samuel Sewall, for his own account, in the *Hope*, Aaron Everton, master, "now riding at anchor in the River of Pascataqua," to Edward Hull, London: "Two Tuns and three quarters of a Tun of Logwood." Freight, "Eleven pounds." Not signed by the master.

1698, *March 5.* Shipped by Samuel Sewall in the *Anne*, John Foye, Jr., master, to Edward Hull, London: "One Silver Watch Shagreen Case studded and four pounds fifteen shils. 6*d* milld Money and one pound Eighteen 6*d* Old Money sterl. of England." Freight, "Four shillings."<sup>2</sup>

Remarks were made during the meeting by Mr. THAYER, and by Mr. TAYLOR, a Corresponding Member.

<sup>1</sup> Not in Sewall's writing.

<sup>2</sup> The next bill is dated 1782, and until 1790 the bills represent shipments from Boston to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, by James Foster.

#### ERRATA

P. 139, l. 6. For Thayer read Ayer.

P. 141, last line, insert "annual" before "meeting."